GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1389
ANSWERED ON:27.11.2002
VISIT OF PRESIDENT OF UKRAINE
SHYAMA SINGH

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the President of Ukraine visited New Delhi in October 2002;

(b) if so, the details of discussions held with him; and

(c) the outcome thereof?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH)

(a) Yes.

(b) & (c) The President of Ukraine, H.E. Mr. Leonid Kuchma, visited India from 2-5 October 2002 at the invitation of the Hon`ble President of India. During the visit, President Kuchma met and held discussions with the Indian leaders including the President, the Vice President, the Prime-Minister, the Deputy Prime Minister, the Speaker of the Lok Sabha, the Minister of Human Resource Development and Science and Technology, the Minister for External Affairs, and the Minister of State for Steel.

During these talks, which were held in a friendly and businesslike atmosphere, the two sides exchanged views on the issues of bilateral cooperation and on regional and international issues. During the visit, the two sides signed the following agreements:

1. Extradition Treaty between the Republic of India and Ukraine

2. Treaty between the Republic of India and Ukraine on Mutual Legal Assistance in Criminal Matters

3. Agreement between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of Ukraine on Merchant Shipping

The two sides noted with satisfaction the resumption of the activities of the Indo-Ukrainian Inter-Governmental Commission on trade, economic, scientific, technical, industrial and cultural cooperation and holding of the meeting of the Indo-Ukrainian Joint Business Council and stressed the importance of holding these meetings on a regular basis. The two sides emphasized the importance they attach to bilateral relations in the sphere of science and technology and to the increase in the number of joint projects.

Taking into consideration the plans to increase the energy output, modernization and revamping of the metallurgical plants, the Indian Side welcomed the participation of Ukrainian manufacturers in the global tenders in the power sector of India, erection of power transmission lines, and in the tenders in the metallurgical sectors. The Ukrainian Sidestated its readiness to supply equipment for the Indian oil pipelines, participate in gas pipeline modernization, and in building roads and road infrastructure etc.

The two sides stressed upon the need to cooperate closely in the fight against terrorism in all its forms and manifestations. They acknowledged that there can be no justification for terrorism or terrorist acts on any grounds - political, ideological or religious. They also stressed upon the need to work together in combating drug trafficking, illicit arms trade, and other forms of international criminal activities.

Ukraine reaffirmed its support for the normalizing of Indo-Pakistani relations through bilateral dialogue, on the basis of Simla Agreement of 1972 and Lahore Declaration of 1999.